

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.

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CROSBY & NOYES, Editors.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined circulation of the Washington Post and Times Herald. As a news and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

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To Show Their Colors.

The decision of the democrats in the Senate to offer a substitute for the financial bill providing for the free coinage of silver reflects credit on their straightforwardness. It will not pass, of course, but it will not be a silent demonstration. The party is committed to silver, and in fairness cannot afford to neglect an opportunity to go on the record. Most editors in this country are plainly challenged to show their colors. The majority of the House is such a challenge. The declaration in favor of the gold standard is a declaration against free silver, and hence the friends of silver should not only cast a vote against the former, but a vote directly in favor of the latter. And this a substitute bill will enable them to do.

The democrats of the House—all but a corporal's guard—were disposed to take a similar step when the question was before that body, but the proceedings denied them the opportunity. They were challenged to show their hands, and we regret to say that a handful of their brethren from New York interposed an objection, and under the rules of the House the objection prevailed. That Mr. Bryan favors a substitute is clear enough. He is meeting the issue on the stump quite as boldly. Neither threats nor cajoleries to induce him to abandon his position. He takes the least weight in the east as in the west. He rebukes the democratic obstructionists in the House right in their own hallways. He tells the people of New York to their faces that free silver is a part of the democratic creed, and that it cannot be denied or eliminated.

Some of the sound money democrats complain that Mr. Bryan is disrupting the party. As a matter of fact, he is doing more than calling men to a show-down of principles? Is he not to be applauded for making a cheat at the polls impossible? He refuses to sail under these colors, and he wants nobody on board who is not of the same disposition. He seems determined indeed that there shall be no such shuffling in his name respecting the money question as took place in the name of Mr. Cleveland prior to the nominating convention of 1892. And that, at least, is a manly stand.

Tail-Docking.

There is now pending before the District committee of the Senate a bill intended to make effective the present law in force in the District prohibiting the brutal practice of docking the tails of horses. This bill should be passed without delay, if it is the sincere desire of the District's legislators to give force to existing statutes. The present law against docking is defective in that it virtually permits the mutilation, just over the District boundary of horses owned and used here, and the effective defense of those accused of the misdemeanor by pleading foreign mutilation and thus putting on the prosecution the burden of positive proof. The pending bill requires that it shall be unlawful "for any person to dock the tail of any horse within the District, or to procure the same to be docked, or to import or to bring into this District any docked horse, or to drive, work, use, race or deal in any undocked docked horse within the District." It further provides for the registration within ninety days of all docked horses, and fixes an adequate penalty for persistent violations of the law.

The effect of such a statute would be to discriminate effectively between the horses whose tails have already been docked and those whose tails are thus treated after the enactment. In this way the practice would be eventually checked, for it would immediately place upon a person accused of violating the law all the burden of proving that the docked horse in his possession was so treated before the passage of the statute, a most difficult task in view of the registry. A failure to register the horse would be equivalent to a direct violation of the law, in the eye of the court.

It may prove to be comparatively easy to secure the passage of such a law as this, inasmuch as the word has gone abroad that fashion no longer smiles on the mutilated horse. Horses with docked tails are to be found between the shafts in every grade of society and every line of labor. No longer does the stumped tail signify high style. The fad has defected itself through the passing of once fashionable beasts into plebeian hands through the vicissitudes of fortune. There are no arguments possible against these measures to prevent cruelty to the horse. The practice of docking cannot be defended on any rational ground. It is bad in every aspect. If now the plea of fashion has been quieted, there stands no obstacle whatever in the path of this wholesome legislation, which should be pressed by every friend of the horse and supporter of the public conscience.

The sympathy in this country for the Boers has not yet reached the point of being as to bring out pro-English mass-meetings to counteract it.

One of the quiet questions of the hour is as to whether Agoncillo gets the money which enables him to continue his vacation in Europe.

Chicago has not yet rasped St. Louis to the extent of offering to supply filters at a reasonable profit.

Mr. Macrum Nears Home.

Mr. Macrum is finding out that he who resigns and runs away lives to be interviewed another day. He is journeying home by easy stages the other way, and every stopping place is beset with questions about the Boer war. At Naples the representative of a New York newspaper fired a string of inquiries at him of the most searching and comprehensive character. At Paris, where he is spending this week, he is the object of much attention. When he lands in New York he will be overwhelmed with appeals for a statement of some kind. But he is proving to be a wary citizen. He steers the conversation clear of its real object, and if he possesses any information of importance obtained while at Pretoria on the subject of the difficulty between the Transvaal and England he is carefully preserving it for the ears of the President and Secretary Hay.

But it is likely that he possesses any such information? Is it not next to absurd, indeed, to suppose, as some do, that he is on his way to Washington bearing a letter from President Kruger to President McKinley explaining the Boer side of the existing difficulties and asking for the intervention of the United States in behalf of the Transvaal? Would he have quitted his post thus to become, in effect, a diplomatic representative of the Boers to his own government? Would President Kruger have asked such a thing of a foreign minister? The suggestion seems almost fantastic. Mr. Macrum may sympathize with the Boers, and President Kruger may have

known the fact and appreciated it; but that Mr. Macrum, under the force of such sympathy, would offer himself to the Boer government for a special mission is out of all reason.

The probability seems still to be, as The Star pointed out several weeks ago, that Mr. Macrum left Pretoria through a disinclination to serve even his own government in the new conditions which war had developed. He had not counted on war when he sought his post, and he did not like war when it suddenly obtruded itself. He was taken by surprise, and he yielded to a panic. It was leave or stay, and he decided to leave, and did not stand upon the order of leaving, but left at once. Probably his most interesting recital when he reaches Washington will relate to how it feels for an Ohio man, of his own motion, to give up a good office. That is so unusual a performance and experience that probably both the President and Secretary Hay will listen to the details with close attention.

The Capture of Spion Kop.

A British victory seems to have been won in Natal, which, though perhaps not decisive, nevertheless affords ground for belief that Gen. Buller's present movement is approaching success. Gen. Warren's forces have occupied Spion Kop, that point which has been described in the dispatches as the greatest of the Boer command's tactical English advance and at the same time the most desperate obstacles. Just how far its possession by the British forces enables them to control the approach to Ladysmith does not fully appear in the accounts thus far received, although an impression has gone abroad that Spion Kop is the key to the situation north of the Tugela. It appears that Gen. Warren surprised the Boer garrison, who fled before him. Nevertheless, Gen. Buller reports that he fears the casualties are considerable. Whether this bears upon Warren's movement or upon the whole line of fighting, several miles in extent, does not appear. It does suggest, however, that there has been persistent and continuous fighting for several days and that the battle has raged fiercely.

If, as Gen. Buller reports Gen. Warren as believing, the latter has rendered the Boer position untenable, the material advance of the British army may now be expected. But it may be found on later reports that the achievements of the past few days have exhausted the powers of Buller's army, requiring reinforcements from the Cape and from England to place him in condition for a further advance, or that the Boers have really gained an advantage in abandoning Spion Kop. There is the most intense anxiety in England over the probabilities, which threatened dire disaster up to the arrival of Buller's dispatch of this morning. The prolonged silence from his headquarters, coupled with the fact that the war office allowed Boer victory dispatches from hostile sources to reach the public, while announcing Buller's intention to advance without giving results, created a most a panic of apprehension in London yesterday. It is easy to imagine the relief felt there upon the receipt of even the meager declaration of today, showing at least a small measure of success, which may later prove to be considerable and important.

The Need for a Municipal Building.

Chairman Mercer of the House committee on public buildings strikes the keynote of the situation when he says the payment of rent for a building for the use of the District government should cease. Rented quarters and crowded quarters have been the history of the municipal government here, and this condition is far from creditable, especially when contrasted with the fine municipal buildings in cities not larger and not nearly of the importance of the capital of the country. Senator McMillan, in speaking of this, says today that there is no city in the United States which is not better equipped with office facilities than Washington. Senator McMillan has favorably reported a bill providing for a combined District building and court house on the site of the present City Hall. In the House Chairman Mercer states unqualified approval of the proposition that a municipal building is necessary. He leaves open the question of whether the same room shall shelter the District government and the courts. Theoretically, the two branches should be kept separate, and an ideal arrangement would be a court house on the present site and a municipal building on Pennsylvania avenue. Whether this is practicable is a question for the future to decide, but with the strong feeling among all citizens in favor of a municipal building and the interest taken in the project by Senator McMillan and Chairman Mercer there should be no halt in the insistence that Congress should take action in the matter at this session.

Hawaiian Legislation Necessary.

Without sensationally arousing the fears of the people, "Kamehameha," The Star's regular Honolulu correspondent, whose latest letter is printed today, brings the failure of Congress thus far to provide governmental processes for Hawaii home to the people of the United States. He shows that the lack of definite legislative authority in the islands contributes to the difficulty of fighting the tubercular plague which has recently made its appearance at the capital. In many other respects, too, the delay in legislating for this new possession has operated against the best interests both of the islands and the mainland. "Kamehameha" indicates the danger that Hawaii is in, and with that citizen growing in stature as the half-way station of the Pacific, with large fleets from the far east touching there on their way to the Pacific coast, and eventually through the isthmian canal the Pacific coast as well, the menace of plague infection is sure to develop. But the remedy is at hand now and will doubtless be early applied, in the form of a model territorial administration at Honolulu, which will permit the enforcement of effective rules for the protection of shipping and population at all stopping points.

Col. Bryan says he is carrying oil to pour on the troubled waters. He should, indeed, sharp to see that no reckless fellow demagogue drops a match into one of the barrels.

The actress who shot her stage manager remains entirely impotent. It would hardly be polite for her to disagree with the jury who acquitted her.

If the Count de Castellane keeps on arguing with Paris editors by telegraph it might pay the Gauls to go to the expense of laying a private cable.

A New Chinese "Emperor."

The news comes by cable that the Emperor Kwangsu, nominally the ruler of China, has designated as his successor Prince Tuan, the nine-year-old son of Prince Tuan, and that the new "ruler" will take the throne on the last day of the present month. This news is interesting rather than important. The abdication of a Chinese emperor under present circumstances is an item of immediately slight consequences. It may reveal, to be sure, certain conditions within the palace at Peking which will eventually lead to friction with one or another of the on-pressing powers, or between those powers. But this is not now regarded as likely. The Emperor of China, whoever the incumbent, is a personage of no real power as long as the actual authority is vested in Tsi An, the dowager empress, whose firm hand and clever mind have long been uppermost in the palace, finding an able agency and ally in the person of Li Hung Chang. The reports of the emperor's illness, which interested the world a few months ago brought many

items of gossip from Peking to show how helpless a puppet he has become. The new emperor will, of course, be quite as plastic a ruler, serving as a figurehead for the public ceremonies and allowing Tsi An to guide the uncertain affairs of the great crumbling empire as best she can. The notion of putting a child of nine upon such a throne is, of course, ludicrous to western observers, yet it is in keeping with the present condition of Chinese affairs, which have been showing a steady tendency toward decadence of late years. Not until those remarkable people, Tsi An and Li Hung Chang, who have together ruled China for many years, have passed away, out of life or out of power, will there be any real change in the administration of China's affairs. And meanwhile the announcement of a new "emperor" means but little more than the naming of a rowboat to suit the fancy or to tickle the pride of some one whose favor is especially to be desired.

The counterfeiter who, while in the penitentiary at Richmond, Va., continued to make and circulate counterfeit money, must be regarded as wholly impervious to the influence of the modern penal system.

The fact that the Count de Castellane was able to marry a very rich young woman should not have deceived him into thinking he is a great financier.

The Boers are accused not only of being careless with flags of truce, but of neglecting to accompany their retreats with guarantees of good faith.

As a personage of awe-inspiring supremacy the dog man now retires in favor of the dog catcher.

SHOOTING STARS.

Necessarily Silent.

Do you think those two letters were written by the same person?

"I really couldn't say," answered the handwriting expert.

"Oh! I see. You haven't studied them."

"Yes, I have. But I haven't as yet been retained either by the prosecution or the defense."

The Capitalist.

He looked where constellations trace Strange forms. His head in grief he bent. And thought of all that vacant space Which isn't bringing any rent.

Admission.

"You say you admire Isen?"

"Yes, sir," said the young man who had just hustled into a modern publishing house.

"But you said only the other day that his writings were—"

"Oh, never mind about his writings. I am talking about his himself. And I think now as I thought then that any man who can get such stuff as that printed must know human nature. The way he hypnotizes the publisher is something startling."

Not to Be Dispensed With.

"Do you believe in oratory as a feature of political work?"

"Yes," said Senator Sorghum. "We've got to have a platform with speakin' on it. Otherwise there wouldn't be any destination for the torchlight procession to march to."

Dispensed.

"Your enemies don't abuse you as they used to," said one politician.

"Yes," answered the other. "It's a very bad sign. It shows they are no longer afraid of me."

Cullud Folks' Ways.

Smilin' an' a-singin'—
Da's de way we goes.
Sorrow's nebbin' brin'gin'—
Shocks to our repose.

Hurryin' when we dances;
Loafin' when we may—
Gits reprovin' glances,
But it's cullud folks' way.

Hoss were built fob haulin';
Dog, he bawk wid leg.
Cat keeps caterwaulin'
An' de 'presum' club should sing.

Wasp is out fob stingin'.
Bee, he work all day.
We jes' keeps a-singin'
'Case it's cullud folks' way.

Whits folks lookin' gloomy—
Reckon it's to blame.
Specks dey's sayin' to me
Dat I orter be ashame.

'Spose dey thinks I's chaffin'
Case dey can't be gay.
But I can't help laughin'—
It's cullud folks' way.

Mablin's Peace Proposal.

From the New York Tribune.

It is decidedly probable that the administration will perceive in the performance of Mablin another attempt, in secret connection with Tagal sympathizers in the Senate and elsewhere in this country, to embarrass the government and help the democrats. What the Philippine insurgents expect to gain if the democratic party should succeed in the coming election they have taken care to make known by many public declarations. They count upon surrender to them as absolute despots of the power to rule as they please the far greater number of inhabitants in the islands, and how they want to rule their extortion, corruption and cruelty have sufficiently shown. The government holds an impregnable position while it maintains that there can be no treating or negotiating with rebels in arms. If Mablin or anybody else has any influence with guerrilla chiefs it is time for him to use it to induce them to lay down their arms. The people are sure to uphold the government in that position, but not sure to uphold it if by some fresh attempt to negotiate it gives to democratic false pretences a color of truth.

The Pension Attorneys.

From the Florida Times.

Legislation has seemingly been powerless to root out of Washington a set of land sharks who stop at no measure to serve their purposes, and who manipulate a certain support for the most selfish and to the most devious purposes. Exposure after exposure leaves them unshaken in the good opinion of the soldier-vote and influence which claim merit for being specially patriotic. It seems to the public that these attorneys, in Congress and out of it, should receive a hint from the fact that they labor to please that a limit has been reached. Will the soldiers allow these selfish bidders for their support to bankrupt the nation they claim the merit of having saved? If the nation were Atlas it would weary of such a load and call upon Hercules for a rope. Will the G. A. R. save the nation again by putting a limit on the zeal of its attorneys?

Ask Mr. Crafts.

From the Pittsburg News.

Inquisitive persons who want to know whether Mr. Bryan drank champagne or mineral water at the dinner last night are referred to the Rev. Mr. Crafts for information. He keeps tabs on the private business of our statesmen.

Long-Distance Valor.

From the Pittsburg News.

The farther away he gets from Paris the more bloodthirsty Castellane becomes. Distance sometimes affords a great stimulus to valor. It is generally vacation time when the boy threatens to lick the teacher.

Salmic Solace.

From the Troy Times.

The recent earthquakes in California and Mexico are favorable to the theory that the earth is taking in another tuck. The anti-expansionists are welcome to all the comfort they can get out of this.

The Boers Handicapped.

From the Kansas City Star.

Think of them all in one bunch—Senator Macrason, Pitchfork Tillman, Lents, Ochoa, Bailey of Texas, Sulzer of New York and Champ Clark. No wonder the Boers are beginning to feel bilious.

We can trace every move

—that "Ceres" Flour makes — from the timethegrain is grown on the fertile fields of Minnesota and Dakota to the time it is bagged and barreled for selling! And not a drop of impure substance enters in it during the entire time. Let

"CERES" FLOUR

—be used in your household if you'd have the best results. It can always be depended on. Refuse substitutes of "Ceres" Flour from your grocer. All grocers sell "CERES" Flour. We are wholesalers.

Wm. M. Galt & Co.,
Wholesalers, 1st & Ind. Ave.

21 BOTTLES ONLY \$1.25.

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—who are not as strong and well as they should be this winter will find OR

"Culmbacher"

—BEER an IDEAL TONIC. It is both nourishing and strengthening—builds up the entire system.

Washington Brewery Co.
47th and F STS. N.E. Phone 2154.

—Especial attention given to Repairing Jewelry and Watches.

Those considering the purchase of any article of Jewellery or Silverware—whether intended for a Wedding, Presentation or a Personal gift—will find it to their advantage to visit our store. Largest stock, newest goods, lowest prices.

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Jewellers, Silversmiths and Watchmakers,
1107 PENN. AVENUE.

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The Houghton Co.,
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Wine Etiquette

Sauterne, 40c. qt., \$4.50 doz. qts.

TO-KALON Wine Co.,
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AND ELECTRIC FITTING STOCK AT SHERIDAN'S. Nothing that's ordinary and commonplace—everything that's tasteful and desirable. Best makes only. We show by every yard, whether it's for the smallest fixtures or the most elaborate production imaginable.

S. SHEDD & S. SHEDD Bro.,
432 9th St. Plumbing, Tinning, Heating, Gas Fittings.

There are other Cigars, but none like "The Rickey."

—5 cents is the price for this elegant smoke.

A Box for \$1.25, TO BE FOUND HERE ONLY.

The Shoemaker Co.,
1225 and 1236 E. ST. N.W.

Coke Calls

A HALT

Washington Gaslight Co.,
413 10th Street.

SERVE

Havenner's "Reception" Flakes.

Whenever you entertain. They're "so-called" wafers—prepared especially to serve with salads, chocolate, etc. They're always fresh and inviting.

Your grocer has them sealed and plain—in bulk and cartons. Ask for HAVENNER'S "Reception" Flakes.

AT YOUR GROCER'S.

The Palais Royal

FIRE

A FALSE ALARM brought the fire engines to the Palais Royal Corner early this morning, and ever since the telephone bell has been ringing. Said one friend: "So glad; 'twould be a calamity to Washington." Said another: "I don't know what we'd do without the Palais Royal." Inquiries innumerable were pouring in as this was being written. With very many thanks for this evidence of popularity we proceed to give tomorrow's important program.

Special prices for the choicest goods in stock. For tomorrow only, because the reductions are specially great. Specially great, because the intention is to make good in one day the loss of business caused by the many rainy days this January.

39c for 68c Taffeta Silk.

Not more than one dress length to each purchaser. Choice of lovely shades of Pinks, Nile and Reseda Greens, Electric, Navy and Army Blues, new Grays, Turquoise, Cerise, Golden Brown, Old Rose, Violet and Black.

42c for 50c to 68c Suitings.

The newly received All-wool Spring Suitings, in nearly a half hundred effects for tailor-made suits. These and the linings on second floor.

9c Yard for 15c Linings.

Guaranteed Percales, in Black and all the needed shades. 9c yard is less than wholesale price. Can we afford more than one dress length to each purchaser?

17c for 25c Black Hose.

The Palais Royal's popular 25c Stockings—those for ladies are extra long, have double soles and high spliced heels. Those for boys are heavily ribbed, sizes 9 to 11. Those for girls are less heavy, sizes 5 to 9. Both have double knees.

31c for 39c and 50c Garments.

Empire, V and High Neck Night Gowns, with cambric ruffle and embroidery. The Drawers and Corset Covers, with lace and embroidery trimming. All sizes, full width and length.

69c for New \$1 Wrappers.

Spring effects, in Percale Wrappers, sizes 32 to 44. Note the fancy yoke and braid trimming. Superior because not cheap looking.

\$4.98 for \$6 to \$10 Coats.

This season's Cloth Jackets. Only a half dozen of the \$10 kind, but plenty that were \$7.50. Black and colors.

23c for Children's New Dresses.

Cambric, Lawn, Long Cloth, Percale and Gingham Dresses, all new. Superior. Note the felled seams, deep hem, etc. And think of tucked and embroidered dresses for only 23c.

3c for Dainty Handkerchiefs.

Of course, they are not linen, but this sheer lawn is as fine as best linen. Not more than three to a purchaser—at 3c. apiece

39c for New 50c Neckwear.

Pretty colors, in Liberty Silk Ties, 2 yards long. Latest effects in silk stocks, with chiffon bow. And various fancy pieces.

17c for the New 25c Veils.

Nearly fifty different styles in those plain and dotted Veils. Black and Black and White effects. One only to each purchaser.

88c for \$1.48 Silk Umbrellas.

Pearl, ivory and fancy handles for ladies, wood handles for men. 26 and 28-inch paragon frames.

10½c for Woodbury's Facial Soap.

Everybody knows of John H. Woodbury's Famous Facial Soap. And has anybody ever before known the price to be as little as 10½c? Not more than two cakes to each visitor.

39c for Six "Rogers" Teaspoons.

No nonsense—each package bears the name and guarantee of the genuinely famous Rogers. 39c for six teaspoons, 88c for six table spoons, forks, table knives or fruit knives. Initials engraved free.

9c for 15c Housefurnishings.

Choice of Majolica Milk Pitchers, large Decorated China Coffee Cups and Saucers, Rose Bowls, in Old Blue, with gold stippling, Glass Bowls, Ceiling Dusters, Work Boxes, Lunch Boxes, etc. Basement.

25c Yard for Table Linen.

Choice of Bleached and Unbleached Table Damask, 54 inches wide. Reasonable quantity—not at wholesale. So with the Napkins at 49c. dozen.

5c for 10c Pillow Cases.

Full size, ready to use and only 5c. Not more than two pairs to each purchaser—so that none will go without any. So with the large 90x90 Sheets at 49c.

39c Pair for 75c Curtains.

Daintily Ruffled Muslin Curtains, 3 yards long. And only 11c for 15-foot Curtain Poles, complete, with 10 rings, pair of brackets and pair of ends.

8c for 15c Stationery.

One hundred Sheets of Writing Paper or one hundred Envelopes for 8c. Not for stationers—not more than one hundred to each purchaser.

The Palais Royal,

A. Lisner. G Street. Corner 11th.

Mayer Bros. & Co.

FRIDAY.

The day of odds and ends will meet a grand reception here. After a week of extra big selling plenty of Remnant's have been developed. Such prices as these are new to Washington.

Nos. 2, 3 and 5 All-silk RIBBON, all colors, plain and fancy, some with fancy edges. Were 12½c and 15c. To close. 2½c.

Silk VELVET HATS that were \$1.50. To close. 75c.

Cut Steel BUCKLES, large size. Were 50c. To close. 25c.

Triple-plated Mirrors, with chains. 19c.